

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 1-3, 6-18 and 21-26 are pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement:

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that the Examiner has considered the International Search Report (ISR) and International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER) and references cited therein. Applicant has attached hereto an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) including a Form PTO-1449 listing all of the references cited on the ISR.

Objections to the Specification:

Sections 4-18 of the Office Action provides various objections to the specification. Applicant submits that the specification is now in full conformance with all U.S. Rules and therefore requests that the various objections to the specification be withdrawn. In particular, a new title has been provided in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion provided in section 4 of the Office Action. With respect to the objection provided in section 5 of the Office Action, Applicant notes that control unit 7 and network 4 are both illustrated in Fig. 9 of the drawings. With respect to section 6 of the Office Action, page 12, line 15 of the specification has been corrected to read "Figure 10", rather than "Figure 6." With respect to section 7 of the Office Action, appropriate section headings have now been added to the specification. With respect to sections 8-17 of the Office Action, Applicant submits that the claims are now in conformance with all U.S. Rules. For example, Applicant notes that claim 1 no longer requires "the associated sub-set members" and claim 15 no longer requires "to

thereby reduce....” With respect to section 18 of the Office Action, the specification now recites “What is claimed is:” before claim 1.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103:

Claims 1-7, 11-12 and 15-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Klovstad (U.S. ‘092). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection with respect to still pending claims 1-3, 6-7, 11-12, 15-18 and 21-24.

For a reference to anticipate a claim, each element must be found, either expressly or under principles of inherency, in the reference. Applicant submits that Klovstad fails to disclose each element of the claimed invention. For example, Applicant submits that Klovstad fails to disclose or even suggest “assessing each state of members of said state and deactivating those states that do not meet a predetermined criterion, between the applications of successive data sequence elements,” as required by independent claim 1. Independent claims 15 and 16 each requires a similar feature.

Independent claims 1, 15 and 16 require deactivating model states. The present invention thus deactivates at the individual model state level. This feature is not disclosed or even suggested by Klovstad. In contrast to the above claimed feature, Klovstad discloses deactivating at the word level. Deactivation at the word level does not allow early phones in a word to be deactivated while the end of a word is being spoken. This is computationally wasteful.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-3, 6-7, 11-12, 15-18 and 21-24 are neither anticipated by nor “obvious” over Klovstad. Applicant thus requests that the above rejections of these claims be withdrawn.

HOVELL et al.
Application No. 09/529,384
January 16, 2004

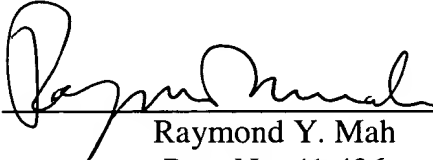
Claims 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Klovstad in view of Tsuji et al (U.S. '057, hereinafter "Tsuji"). Claims 13-14 and 25-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Klovstad in view of O'Brien (U.S. '489). Neither Tsuji nor O'Brien remedy the above-described deficiencies of Klovstad. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

Conclusion:

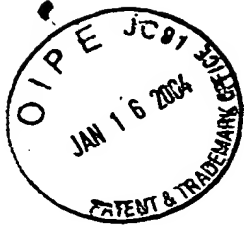
Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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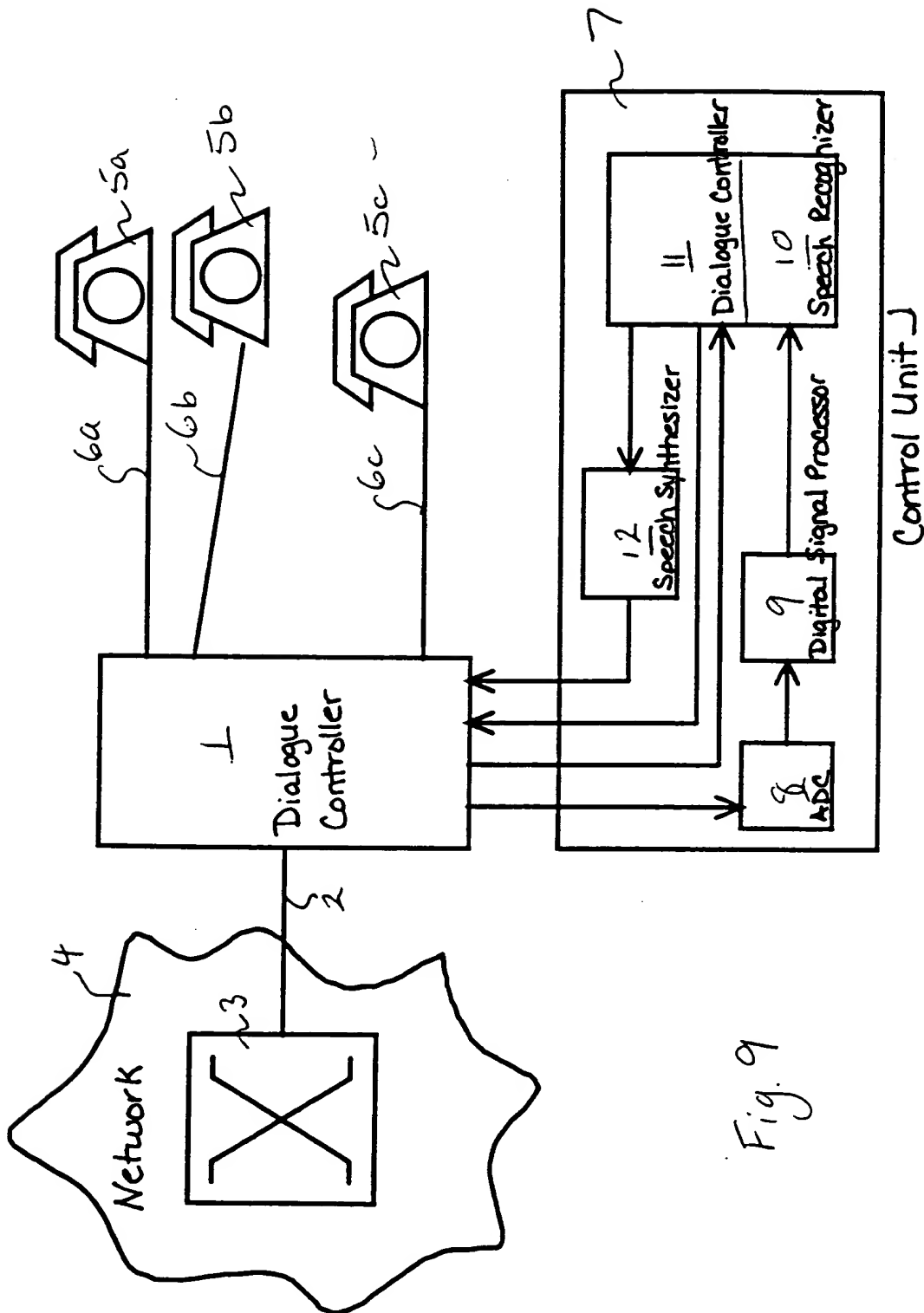


Fig. 9